of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mineral concessions (mining lease/prospecting licence/reconnaissance permit) are granted by the State Government concerned. Proposals for prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of Section 5(1) of the aforesaid Act. The Central Government has not conveyed its approval to the State Government of Chhattisgarh for any agreement to hand over the mining of diamonds at Devbhog to M/s De Beers. However, five proposals for grant of reconnaissance permit for diamond and associated minerals in favour of M/s De Beers India Prospecting Pvt. Ltd. and M/s De Beers India Survey Pvt. Ltd. (which are subsidiary companies of M/s De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.) were received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh and were approved by the Central Government, recently.

Use of detonators in stone crushing

2229. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the Licence for the use of detonators (blast) in stone crushing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are convinced that it will prevent smuggling of detonators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Licence for possession and use of explosives including detonators in stone crushing are granted by Department of Explosives under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the provisions of Explosives Rules, 1983. It has ben intimated by Ministry of Commerce and Industry that there is no specific proposal with the Government for simplification of licence for use of detonators in stone crushing.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.